

Atty Dkt No.: 2001P18013US02

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 – 3, 5 – 7, 9 – 17 and 19 – 31 remain pending in the application and stand rejected. Claims 4 and 18 are objected to and are canceled herein. Claim 8 is previously canceled. Claims 1, 9, 17 and 28 – 31 are amended herein by this amendment. No new matter is added.

Claims 4 and 18 are objected to for depending from rejected base claims, but are indicated to be allowable, if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1 and 17 are amended to include the recitations of canceled, objected to claims 4 and 18 and so, are canceled objected to claims 4 and 18 rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claims 1 and 17 are allowable.

Further, independent claims 9 and 28 – 31 are amended to include recitations corresponding to canceled, objected to claims 4 and 18 and so, also are believed allowable.

Moreover, dependent claims include all of the differences with the references, as the claims from which they depend. MPEP §2143.03 (“If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988).”). Therefore, dependent claims 2, 3, 5 – 7, 10 – 16 and 19 – 27 are also believed allowable.

The amendment to the claims obviates the need for discussion of the rejection if the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The applicants have considered the other references cited, but not relied upon and find them to be no more relevant than the references upon which the final rejection is based.

Believing the amendment to place the application in condition for allowance, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1 – 3, 5 – 7, 9 – 17 and 19 – 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and allow the application to issue.

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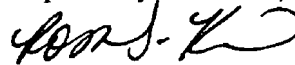
**CONCLUSION**

Accordingly, should the Examiner believe anything further may be required, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at telephone number 650-694-5330, for a telephonic interview to discuss any other changes. Although this Amendment is being timely filed, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required for this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

PLEASE MAIL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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Respectfully submitted,



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